

# NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filia gignunt, nec noster vilius quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

VOL. II. Philadelphia, November 20, 1819. No. 21.

If any of the Subscribers to the NATIONAL RECORDER intend to discontinue their patronage at the end of the year, they are requested to notify the publishers by the first of December, or as soon after as possible.

Our subscribers in the interior of this state, are respectfully informed that they will soon be called on for payment for this year's subscription, and they will much oblige us by being ready.

We have some subscribers scattered about in such remote places, that we have no other than the present method of requesting them to send the money (due since July 1st,) for this year's subscription, as soon as possible.—We will willingly pay the postage.

## COLONIZATION.

We expressed an opinion some time ago, that whether the views of the colonization society be friendly to the abolition of slavery, or to the perpetuation of this national crime, their exertions must gradually produce the effect of universal emancipation. If this be true, we ought heartily to rejoice that a mode has been discovered by which the co-operation of the slave states can be secured. The object of this association does not encounter the prejudices that are there tremblingly alive against the Abolition Society. It does not so broadly and openly announce the truth, that it is criminal to hold slaves; it professes to meliorate the evil rather than eradicate it. This partial co-operation, has alarmed the zealous fervour of some members of the Abolition Society. While we think their fears unfounded, we rejoice to find that the success which has attended their exertions here, has not lulled them into security, but that they are yet warm in

the cause of their suffering and degraded fellow men. We trust that we are not less anxious than our friends, to promote the cause of freedom, though we cannot but think it prudent to make gradual advances. When we consider the great force of education, habit and interest, in blinding the understanding, we shall find ample reason to view with charitable mildness, the conduct of those who persist in enriching themselves with the labour of their fellow men. Instead of angry maledictions against them, let us thank God that none of us are presented with the appalling alternative of poverty and virtue, or wealth acquired by means which have been sanctioned by long habit, are in accordance with the custom of our neighbours, and are offensive to the Most High.

We request the attention of our readers, to our opinion of the effect that will be produced by the society, and should we be wrong shall be glad to be corrected.

In the commencement, their progress must be laborious and slow. They will be obstructed by the prejudices of those who suspect them; the apathy of those who consider the scheme impracticable and of those who are indifferent to it; and the dislike which many of the blacks will feel to the removal. When they shall have effected a settlement—the difficulties will gradually vanish. Emigrants will find a home prepared for them, and subsistence will be more easily obtained; the blacks who remain here will feel more strongly the desire of a country where they may enjoy the equality which they never can attain here, and this aspiring feeling will probably act most forcibly upon those who have been most improved, and feel confidence in their own powers; and when the practicability and usefulness of the plan shall be proved, the friends of the blacks will

join in it, and all men will unite in promoting a separation that will be so highly beneficial to both parties. The settlement will soon flourish, and as we shall have parted with them in friendship, their commercial views will be directed towards us; our seamen will have a new opening for their industry, and another source of national wealth will spring up. The barbarous tribes surrounding the settlement, will be civilized, and the light of Christianity will shine upon those who have sat in darkness. In proportion to the mental improvement of the Africans will be the increase of their industry, and another world will be given to commerce. In place of the murderous banditti who now infest her coasts, Africa will joyfully hail the approach of the friendly sail which wafts to her the means of improvement! While we dwell upon the sight of human happiness that spreads before the mind upon such a view, we are raised beyond the bounds of cold calculation, and feel an enthusiastic delight which would carry us away more rapidly than prudence will allow.

The opinions we have just given, are founded upon the supposition of the settlement being made in Africa, but the following letter from president Boyer, to a gentleman in New York, gives another view of the case.

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JEAN PIERRE BOYER, President of Hayti.

*To Mr. —, Merchant, New York.*

I have received, sir, with the liveliest satisfaction, your obliging letter of the 19th of the 6th month, of the present year, enclosing an excellent treatise on objections to the use of prize goods, which has been translated and published in the official gazette of the government, as you will perceive by a No. accompanying this letter. Your principles, sir, are those of the friend of man, and since you are desirous of being useful to that class of the unfortunate descendants of Africans, who groan under oppression, they will know how to evince their gratitude to you, as well as to the members of your honourable society. Persevere, therefore, in your efforts, and assist with your counsel those unfortunate persons, who were under the necessity of seeking an asylum in a country like this, where all men are free and equal in the eye of the law, for the enjoyment of their civil and political rights. If the emigration of people of colour, which it appears to be your wish in the United States, should direct towards Africa, were to be turned towards this republic, great benefit would result to all par-

ties.—The first, sir, would be the greater convenience for the emigrants, on account of the proximity of the United States to this country, which would make the voyage much shorter and easier. Secondly, the emigrants would find employment on lands already cultivated, which would enable them in less than a year, to earn an honourable subsistence. Thirdly, the benefit this country would derive by labourers coming from the United States, as the cultivation would increase in proportion to the quantity of such labour, which would necessarily augment the commerce of the United States with Hayti, both in imports and exports.

I have taken the liberty to send to Mr. J. Walker, merchant, of this city, two hogsheads of brown sugar, my own manufacture, marked C. C. with a request to ship them to you in my name. I beg you will accept of them, sir, and make such use of them as you think proper. It is a sample of the sugar which I manufacture. I hope the quality will improve in a short time. All the inhabitants of the republic are endeavouring to improve the quality of their produce; with time and perseverance they will no doubt succeed.

Nothing shall be wanting on my part, sir, to make my correspondence with you frequent and acceptable, for I hope it will eventuate in favour of humanity. On receiving coffee of the present crop, I will send you some.

Receive the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed)

J. P. BOYER.

Port au Prince, 22d August, 1819.  
16th year of the Independence of Hayti.

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An address has been published to the citizens of Philadelphia, requesting their assistance "in behalf of a number of coloured people who are desirous to join the projected colony on the coast of Africa," and will not we hope be made in vain.

It will thus be in the power of those who hold slaves, and are desirous to set them at liberty, but are at present prevented by the laws, to free themselves from their share of the reproach. The number of those who are interested in the continuance of slavery, will thus be gradually diminished, and we may soon hope for legislative interposition to put an end to it forever.

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*Manufactures.*—We recommend to our readers the piece in p. 335 on this important subject. Let it be read in the spirit in which it is written, and the manufacturers themselves must be pleased

with it. We believe that the establishment of manufactures of many important necessities might be profitably made, and that they would enrich the nation by giving full employment to the industry of the people. This is what we all wish. Few are opposed to the introduction of manufactures, and the only difference in opinion, is the manner of effecting it. For our own part, we should be sorry to enter upon an *artificial* system; but if (as the writer of the piece alluded to suggests) the practicability of establishing on a *sound foundation* any particular branches of manufactures, by a *short continuance* of high duties, or any other mode of encouragement, could be satisfactorily proven, we should hope it would not be withheld.

Would not *bounties* be better than high duties? We think they would, for we could then estimate more easily what the protection of any part of our manufactures would cost us; but the question will be discussed before men who have long considered the subject, and will not act hastily.

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**Savings Banks.**—The great importance of these institutions is constantly becoming more apparent. We do verily believe that they will contribute more to industry, than any other thing has ever done. In conversation a few evenings ago with a friend, he informed us that when he was a journeyman, he made it a regular practice to lay by two dollars a week, and frequently more. This usually accumulated to 50 or 60 dollars in safety, but he was then assailed by some temptation to expense, which at length persuaded him to break in on his hoard, and it was soon spent. He would then begin again with fresh resolutions of economy, which ended in the same way. Had it been in his power to place it out *at interest* with so little trouble as it can now be done, he would at this time have been in possession of a very considerable sum, which would have enabled him to make his present business much more profitable.

The deposits in two days in the New York savings bank were \$4742.

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**Beggars.**—It was formerly our opinion, that men who were able and wil-

ling to work, could always procure a plentiful subsistence by leaving the city and travelling into the interior. Of late this has been somewhat shaken by the constant assertions that we have heard, of the impossibility of getting work anywhere. But in consequence of some little investigation, we have returned with increased confidence to our former belief. We were applied to several months ago by a stout looking Irishman, who had lately left New York in quest of employment, to direct him to a pawn-broker's office. He was under the necessity he said of pawning his watch for five dollars, for the present subsistence of his wife and three children. He should be able to redeem it in a week, as he had procured some employment at paving the street. We succeeded in changing his intention, and saw him again at the end of the week. His "occupation was gone." After some fruitless attempts to procure work for him at some public buildings, where we were informed that they had many more applicants than they could employ, we mentioned his case to a friend who has some iron forges in Bedford county. He at once agreed to employ him and his wife and children, and told us, that if the man were frugal and industrious, he would soon be able to purchase some land in the neighbourhood, and commence farming on a small scale.

In conversation a few days ago with a gentleman from Centre county, we asked him, "What provision do you make for your poor?" "None at all," he answered, "we have none among us who are not too proud to have recourse to public charity." He further informed us, that those who were willing could *always* (the winter not excepted) find employment at the iron furnaces, at cutting wood or some other labour. That it was necessary to be economical indeed, but that the wages of labour, depending on industry and skill, were from 75 cents to \$1.25 per day. That more labourers could be employed than were there, and advised us to send all who were willing to work, to Philipsburg, Centre county. The mode of transporting themselves to be on foot, it being as easy to them to beg their way on the road, as to spend several months here in the same manner. Or it would be much to our advantage to

form an association to transport them there; as he asserted, that any industrious people would be welcome.

*Canal between Philadelphia and New York.*—There is something very hearty and cheering in the extract from the Albany Register (see p. 334) on this subject. How much better is it to expend our money in promoting such a plan for increasing and facilitating the intercourse between different parts of the United States, and thus binding them more firmly together—than to waste millions in wars that can be avoided. In the former case we “receive our own again with usury,” in the latter “we reap a plentiful harvest of sighs and groans and human misery.”

*South America.*—The Patriots have had more continued good success, than has of late attended them. “Lord Cochrane” says the Montreal Herald “is making money very fast.” We are not qualified to judge of the correctness of the insinuation against that lord. He may have redeemed his former errors, and may be useful in the cause which he has adopted. We look towards our suffering brethren in the South with a hope that they may soon succeed in their struggle, and with our best wishes that they may learn from their long experience of anarchy, to value rightly the blessings of order when they shall succeed in establishing peace. It is however more probable that for years after their independence shall have been gained, they will suffer very much from intestine commotions. But time, and (if it be not presumptuous to say so) our good example, will gradually soften and improve them, and those who now live may see the greater part of that portion of the continent, under the peaceful rule of a happy people.

*Western Trade with Asia.*—A writer in the St. Louis Enquirer has engaged, in a series of papers, in a discussion of the advantages of this trade when carried on through the Columbia and Missouri rivers. He enlarges upon its advantages—in shortening the distance from Phila-

delphia to Canton by 20,000 miles—in changing the commodity sent to China from silver to the productions of the United States: such as furs, buffaloe and bear skins and peltry of various sorts from the Rocky Mountains; salmon fish from the Columbia river, which furnishes an inexhaustible supply; the sea otter skins from the coast of the Pacific:—we could also carry on a trade with the coast of California for pearls, which would sell well in China. When the country upon the Columbia river shall be settled and improved, other articles of barter will arise, and especially *bread*, which the Dutch formerly sold to the Chinese from Batavia. That a settlement could readily be formed the writer is very confident.

*Canada.*—The Montreal Herald has the following paragraph:

Another acquisition to the overgrown bulk of the United States, has been made by the purchase of a large tract of land from the Indians. To those politicians who consider the seeds of the destruction of all republics as being sown in their overgrowth, this will be agreeable news. The more extensive, the shorter duration to the federal bond.

We are sorry to see any thing of this kind from the press of our neighbours. Such foolish squibs have more effect than they ought to have. Let us consider their fear of us, as an acknowledgment of our growing strength, and rather be pleased with the compliment, than vexed with the spirit in which it is made.

*Matthew Lyon* has published a long piece in the Kentucky Reporter, on the subject of the public lands. He advocates the system of selling on credit, and attributes the attempts to change it, to the selfish views of the Atlantic statesmen, whom he accuses of jealousy of the growing strength of the west. He expresses much sympathy for those *worthy* persons who having occupied land and considered it as their own for some time, are deprived of their *property*, under colour of the law, by the owner!

*The Bones of Thomas Paine.*—It may be true, as the editor of the National Advocate asserts, that Thomas Paine was *not an infidel*. Though he blasphemed

what the common feelings of *Christians* consider sacred—we will not assert, (for we have not read his writings,) that he ever denied the reality of a future state, or the presiding power of the Great Creator.—But we cannot endure the abominable comparison that Mr. Noah has made, between such a man as Mr. Paine was, and the pure and noble Washington. The following extract is more than we should have thought he would have dared to publish.

“ What would be said, if a set of mad enthusiasts were to break open the tomb of Washington, and carry his bones to South America to inspire the people in their contest against Spain?—Would it not speak ‘trumpet tongued’—would it not be heard at every quarter of the globe? And yet we can see no difference in the act.”

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**Pittsburgh.**—The grand jury of this place have presented as a nuisance “*bad women*,” of whom they estimate the number in that town to be 65. We are surprised to find, that in a city so far from the Atlantic, there are so many women whose vices overbalance their virtues. How many bad *men* are there?

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## Communications.

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*For the National Recorder.*

JAMES LOGAN.

This name is familiar to those acquainted with the annals of Pennsylvania. James Logan was not less distinguished for his learning, which induced many of the literati of Europe to cherish his correspondence, than for the probity with which he filled the most important public stations in the province, as the confidential friend of its venerable founder. If the modesty of his pretensions to literary pre-eminence, and the well known fact of his having bequeathed a valuable library to the citizens of Pennsylvania, were not sufficient to rescue his name from oblivion, we should have expected that the historical records of his valuable public services, would have preserved it at least from unmerited obloquy. This, however, does not appear to have been the case, as respects the London Quarterly Review: and whether we are to at-

tribute its conduct to wilful ignorance of the earlier periods of our history, or to a prevailing disposition to depreciate every thing connected with America, it is equally inexcusable. In this, as in many other instances, their conduct has not escaped the animadversions of WALSH, in his “Appeal,” and in the exposition thereof, he has paid a just tribute to the memory of James Logan. The mention of this circumstance is sufficient to induce those who are desirous of further information to refer to that valuable work. Our present object is to introduce to more general attention an extract from the illustrative notes by which it is accompanied. In this we are presented with part of a charge to a grand jury, delivered by James Logan, as chief justice of the province. The wisdom exhibited in this charge alone, is sufficient to substantiate his claims to respect: but we cannot give it a better introduction than by using the words of WALSH.

“ Of the practical lessons which he inculcated, I am induced to quote the following, from a charge dated April 13, 1736, because it has a curious appositeness to the present times in this country, and contains maxims of universal and perpetual validity.

“ As poverty, and the want of money, has of late been the great cry in this place (Philadelphia); and riches have been shown to be the natural effects of sobriety, industry, and frugality; the true causes of this poverty may justly deserve a more near and strict inquiry: upon which, the case, if I mistake not, will appear as follows. It is certainly with a state, as with a private family; if the disbursements or expenses are greater than the income, that family will undoubtedly become poorer. And, in the same manner, if our importations are greater than our exports, the country in general will sink by it. This has been our case for some years past, owing, in a great measure, not only to the badness of the commodity we exported, to the great injury of our credit, (which, notwithstanding, is now in some degree retrieved, by the diligence of one officer, and the country will undoubtedly reap the advantages of it,) but also to our using more European and other goods than we can pay for by our produce, or perhaps really want; and then the balance must be paid (if ‘tis ever done) in money.

“ These are the open and avowed reasons, that may be given, for our scarcity of coin: but as to our poverty, it may be inquired, whether there be not yet a cause? And every man who complains, may ask himself, whether he has been as industrious and frugal, in the management of his affairs, as his circumstances required? whether credit has not hurt him, by venturing into debt, before he knew

how to pay? and whether the attractions of pleasure and ease have not been stronger than those of business? but Solomon says, He that loveth pleasure, shall be a poor man: and he that loveth wine and oil, (that is, high living,) shall not be rich, Prov. xxi. 17. He tells us also, elsewhere, who they are that shall come to poverty, and what it is that clothes a man with rags, Prov. xxiii. 21; and shows, very clearly, that the ways to get wealth were the very same, near three thousand years ago, that they are at this day, and, probably, they may continue the same to the end of the world.

"If people of substance cannot employ men to build, or by other means to improve the country, but at higher rates than the work will be worth to them when finished, whether 'tis to be let or sold, such workmen cannot expect employment, but poverty must come as one that travelleth, and want as an armed man. And if the same love of pleasure, wine, and oil, still continue under these circumstances, it will not be difficult to find a cause why such are not rich. It is not to be doubted, but that young beginners in the world have mistaken their own condition; have valued an appearance, and run too easily into debt; and that workmen declining labour on practicable terms, to put it in the power of others to employ them, and yet continuing their usual expense; it is not to be doubted, I say, but that great numbers, by these measures, though they may not be the only cause, have been plunged into distressed circumstances, of which they themselves will not see the reason: but being uneasy under them, they repine, and grow envious against those who, by greater diligence and circumspection, have preserved themselves in a more easy and safe condition of life. Such people run into complaints of grievances; cry out against the oppression of the poor, though perhaps no country in the world is more free from it than ours; they grow factious and turbulent in the state; are for trying new politics, and like persons afflicted with distempers, contracted through vicious habits, who are calling for lenitives to their pains, but will not part with the beloved but destructive cause; they are for inventing new and extraordinary measures for their relief and ease; when it is certain, that nothing can prove truly effectual to them, but a change of their own measures, in the exercise of those wholesome and healing virtues I have mentioned, viz. sobriety, industry, and frugality: not by contracting new debts, for this is a constant snare, and a pit, in which the unwary are caught; for the *borrower*, we are told, is a servant to the lender, and the man who gives surety worketh his own destruction: for why (it is said) should he (thy creditor) take thy bed from under thee? or, which amounts to the same, why should he take that from thee, from which thou must gain thy bread, or the place on which thy bed stands? such relief is but a snare: and I will here be bold to say, that it is not even the greatest quantities of

coin that can be imported into this province, (unless it were to be distributed for nothing,) nor of any other specie, that can relieve the man who has nothing to purchase it with; but it is his industry, with frugality, that must ease him, and entitle him to a share of it."

A.

*Philadelphia, Nov. 11, 1819.*

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

*From a Planter in Missouri, to a Friend in Philadelphia.*

DEAR SIR—It is with much regret I learn, that considerable exertions are making in the eastern states, to obtain the passage of a law by Congress, prohibiting the introduction of slavery into the new states forming west of the Mississippi. Presuming on our former acquaintance, I take the liberty of addressing you on this subject, hoping that I may be able to obtain your influence in our favour. It is difficult for us here to ascertain what right the eastern people have to interfere in this question; nor can we conceive what interest they have in its result. It is no doubt true that this property was purchased with their money, but their patriotism will induce them to wish it speedily settled with good citizens, and that cannot be done unless you will allow us to introduce slavery; for you know perfectly well that the habits of gentlemen planters do not qualify them for labour, and it suits their views better to obtain labourers from Africa. You are also acquainted with the strength of our patriotism, and of our great exertions in favour of liberty, arising from the purest principles. We wish to extend and strengthen the bounds of the empire, and that our republican institutions may be perpetuated to the latest generations. You cannot suppose that it is for present conveniences, or for the purpose of accumulating money, that we have come to settle in these regions, and wish the introduction of slavery.—I hope, dear Sir, you will absolve us from any motives of this kind, and should they be suggested, you will endeavour to repress such an idea, as we have some fears that ill-natured people will think our object in settling here, is merely to obtain money. We know very well that the old states in the east, may claim the privilege of parental

care over the new ones in the west; but we would much rather they would let us take our own course, as we know best what is our interest. It will be time enough for them to exercise that care some years hence, when, if our slaves should become unruly, like those in St. Domingo, we may call for their assistance, which we hope will not cost them much money: but in that case we should expect to be exempted from taxation for a few years, as we should not be in a situation to pay taxes; and moreover, we should then wish a law passed, allowing of the importation of a few more slaves from Africa, as it might be necessary to exterminate the old stock. Should we unfortunately be driven to the east of the Mississippi, we expect you would receive us with kindness, and raise a general subscription for our relief, as was done in some cases, for the poor fugitives from St. Domingo.

As to any opposition to our views from our friends in the south, we have no fears on that score; they are too well acquainted with the blessings of slavery to wish to deprive us of them, and they are too well aware of the value of slaves in the markets west of the Mississippi, to make any attempts towards closing those markets, when they have a surplus stock to dispose of. It is said that some of them are getting rather uneasy with the increase of their slave population, and especially such as have accumulated considerable estates, and are desirous of rendering their property more secure. Their views of scattering the population will of course be favourable to our interests; and we think they will be induced to give up the wild scheme of colonizing in Africa, if you will but allow a market here.

There is another strong inducement with us to obtain the introduction of slaves. It is well known that the soil in this country is extremely productive, and we are fearful it will soon be settled in small tracts, by those vagabonds from the east that are constantly seeking for good lands; which would operate against our accumulating large estates, and be very prejudicial to the interests of republican government. There is not much danger of their coming here, if they find we have got slaves among us, for they have a great enmity to slavery.

I wish you to discourage them as much as possible from moving towards this country, until we get it fairly settled, lest they should obtain a preponderating influence, and vote down the slave system, even in our own legislature, of which we have some fears. We are very desirous nevertheless, of promoting the growth of new states to the west of the Mississippi, provided they are settled with the proper kind of people, as we expect by and by, to obtain such an ascendancy in Congress, as will enable us to repeal that infamous law prohibiting the African slave trade. You know we wish to extend to Africa the blessings of Christianity, by introducing the Africans into this country; and I presume you are aware, that we have a mode of doing this without affording them any education—or allowing them to meet together for religious worship, which might be rather dangerous expedients.—Our mode is to appoint certain chaplains, who accompany them to the field, and beat it into them with a Christian instrument, vulgarly called a cat-o'-nine-tails, without interrupting their labour. It is not, however, necessary to inform you of all our philanthropic views in favour of the Africans. I only wish you to assist us at present, in preventing the passage of the excluding law, and you may rely on it, we will treat the Africans well when we get them here.

I have, however, troubled you with my business further than I had intended. I often think of the peaceful city of Philadelphia, and of my friendly acquaintance there, and expect, if things go right, that I shall soon accumulate a sufficient fortune to enable me to remove, and end my days among them.—This it is certainly my intention to do as soon as I can, and it is most likely I shall bring all my children with me.

With respect, your obed't servt,

B—A—.

#### REPLY.

ESTEEMED FRIEND—Thy letter has been duly received, and though I really doubted, on reading it, the seriousness of thy views, yet having concluded that I had no right to do so, I have thought I could not do less to serve thee than publish it, which will be attended to ac-

cordingly. I am fully disposed to serve thee in what concerns thy best interests, but knowing my sentiments in relation to slavery, I am rather surprised that thou shouldst have calculated on making me an advocate for its introduction into the new states. Thou wilt, therefore, excuse me for giving my sentiments more at large on the subject, which will be a sufficient apology for my not interfering more effectually in thy favour. I do not profess to be, either a politician or lawyer, and therefore shall not inquire into the legal points of this question. I am persuaded, that if the people at large are clearly convinced, that any proceeding is necessary for their welfare, and that of their posterity, they have the power of adopting it, even if an amendment in the constitution should be necessary for this purpose. I am also of opinion, that if the government of the United States owns the unsettled territory west of the Mississippi, they have the power of selling it on their own conditions, and if they choose to make the prohibition of slavery a condition in the bargain, I can see nothing to prevent. The main point is, to ascertain what is best for our present, and future welfare. I believe that the government under which we live is best calculated to promote the happiness of the citizen, and wish therefore, to see it endure until that time arrives, when human governments will be found no longer necessary. Now I conceive, that no government can expect to stand, which is not founded on that great principle of Christianity,—‘Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you.’ Slavery is so entirely incompatible with this principle, that from its extension, we have the greatest cause to fear the downfall of our republican institutions. It is moreover, so completely opposed to the great principles on which this government is founded, that while we regret it existed before these were promulgated, and acknowledge the difficulty of eradicating the evil, we are surprised that its further extension, should even be a subject of debate in Congress. If, as Christians, we forget the principles of our religion, and as republicans, we disregard the rights of fellow beings, though from another country, and of a different colour; how long is it probable

we shall continue to fulfil our duties to one another, or to the government which we profess to be that of our choice? —Surely, not longer than it is our interest.

Our empire is extending and our population increasing with sufficient rapidity, without resorting to the inhuman traffic in the labour of innocent Africans. Indeed, I have sometimes thought we are stretching too widely over the wilderness, and forming new states without sufficient deliberation. This has a tendency to weaken the bonds of connexion, and to endanger the fabric, from civil dissensions. These effects are not so likely to result, if our uncultivated lands are settled in small tracts by the gradual increase, and natural overflow of our population. While this course has a tendency to prevent the origin of an aristocratical influence, it is calculated to preserve the connexion between the different parts, and foster dispositions favourable to the general government.

When I look forward to the consequences which may result, even in our day, from peopling the region west of the Mississippi with slaves, the most poignant feelings naturally arise. The scenes of St. Domingo are presented to my mind, and they do not appear to have been foreign to thine; they are fresh in our recollection, and to depict them is unnecessary. Shouldst thou ever be a fugitive from the torrent of fire and destruction, which may one day overwhelm thy country, if slavery is introduced, I hope my disposition will lead me to receive thee as a Christian ought to, and that thy companions in misery will find an asylum on the east of the Mississippi. But I trust thou wilt not call for revenge on their pursuers, unless thou art prepared to say, ‘I have done as I would be done by’—‘They have not done as I would have done in a similar situation.’ Should that day arrive, thou mayest then look back to the period of this correspondence, and remember that I have warned thee against the effects of injustice for the gratification of avarice.

Thou dost not appear to think that the citizens of the old states have any interest in this subject, although we have thy acknowledgment that the pro-

erty was purchased with their money. I trust, thou wilt allow that they have an interest in the government which they have erected. Like indulgent parents, they have been constantly building additions to their noble edifices for the accommodation of their children. As no edifices of this kind have yet proved incombustible, though the builders have in general endeavoured to make them so, it is very natural for the parents to make it an explicit condition, on granting to their children possession of the new additions, that no inflammable materials should be introduced therein. Indeed, it appears altogether absurd to expect such a privilege, which might endanger the whole structure; especially as it is well known, that strenuous exertions are making to remove all such materials from some parts of the old building, where they were introduced by an avaricious mother, and so incorporated, that great care is necessary to prevent the building from falling, during the removal. To preserve the structure, should certainly be the great object of all, and partial interests or partial views ought not to be suffered to interfere therewith. I hope thou canst now comprehend the origin of that interest which is felt in the old states, in relation to the introduction of slavery into the new; and though thy views may not yet correspond with mine, I have no hesitation in saying, that thy posterity, to the latest generations, should they continue to the west of the Mississippi, will revere the wisdom of that Congress, that shall raise an insuperable barrier against the introduction of slavery into that delightful region.

I observe thou hast some prospect of retiring at a future period, to settle in this city; and though I shall be pleased to see thee as a friend, yet I must own with freedom, that this rather evinces a disposition to fly from the evils, which thy avaricious views are calculated to produce. I hope, however, that thy own conscience, aided by thy professed patriotism, and an inherent desire to promote the welfare of thy posterity, will yet eradicate the roots of injustice and avarice in thy heart, and make thee as strong an opponent of slavery in every shape, as is thy friend

L—A—.

## Miscellany.

### PROFESSOR PLAYFAIR.

Our readers will be gratified by the perusal of the eloquent tribute which we this day republish from a Scotch paper, to the memory of Professor Playfair. The death of such a man is a loss common to humanity, and calculated to excite, in the remotest bounds of the literary world, the same feelings of sorrow and regret which appear to have afflicted those in whose familiar circle he was wont to move. There can be no more delightful or powerful incentive to literary excellence, (independently of the gratification which the effort to attain it in itself produces,) than the example which such a life as that of Professor Playfair affords. We behold him alike the idol of the aged and the young; equally the delight of those whose humbler talents were unable to follow the workings of his mighty mind, as of those kindred spirits who could comprehend and share its loftiest aspirations. The depth of knowledge, and power of intellect, which have made some men overbearing and intolerant, and others painfully fastidious, served but, in him, to adorn the humility and meekness of the most *unpretending philosopher* that ever existed. The void he has left in literature will not soon be filled—that in his social circle, is irreparable.

[*N.Y. American.*

*Some Account of the Character and Merit of the late Professor Playfair, ascribed to Francis Jeffrey, Esq.*

Of Mr. Playfair's scientific attainments—of his proficiency in those studies to which he was peculiarly devoted—we are but slenderly qualified to judge; but we believe, we hazard nothing in saying, that he was one of the most learned mathematicians of his age, and among the first, if not the very first, who introduced the beautiful discoveries of the later continental geometers to the knowledge of his countrymen, and gave their just value and true place, in the scheme of European knowledge, to those important improvements by which the whole aspect of the abstract sciences has been renovated since the days of our illustrious Newton. If he did not signalize himself by any brilliant or original invention, he must, at least, be allowed to have been a most generous and intelligent judge of the achievements of others, as well as the most eloquent expounder of that great and magnificent system of knowledge which has been gradually evolved by the successive labours of so many gifted individuals. He possessed, indeed, in the highest degree, all the characteristics both of a fine and a powerful understanding—at once penetrating and vigilant—but more distinguished, perhaps for the caution and sureness of its march, than for the brilliancy or rapidity of its movements—and guided and adorned through all its progress by the most genuine enthusiasm for all that is grand, and the justest taste for all that is beautiful in the truth or the intel-

lectual energy with which he was habitually conversant.

To what account these rare qualities might have been turned, and what more brilliant or lasting fruits they might have produced, if his whole life had been dedicated to the solitary cultivation of science, it is not for us to conjecture; but it cannot be doubted that they added incalculably to his eminence and utility as a teacher; both by enabling him to direct his pupils to the most simple and luminous methods of inquiry, and to imbue their minds, from the very commencement of the study, with that fine relish for the truths it disclosed, and that high sense of the majesty with which they were invested, that predominated in his own bosom. While he left nothing unexplained or unreduced to its proper place in the system, he took care that they should never be perplexed by petty difficulties, or bewildered in useless details, and formed them betimes to that clear, masculine, and direct method of investigation, by which, with the least labour, the greatest advances might be accomplished.

Mr. Playfair, however, was not merely a teacher; and has fortunately left behind him a variety of works, from which other generations may be enabled to judge of some of those qualifications which so powerfully recommended and endeared him to his contemporaries. It is, perhaps, to be regretted, that so much of his time, and so large a proportion of his publications, should have been devoted to the subjects of the Indian astronomy, and the Huttonian theory of the earth. For, though nothing can be more beautiful or instructive than his speculations on those curious topics, it cannot be dissembled that their results are less conclusive and satisfactory than might have been desired; and that his doctrines, from the very nature of his subjects, are more questionable than we believe they could possibly have been on any other topic in the whole circle of the sciences. To the first, indeed, he came under the great disadvantage of being unacquainted with the eastern tongues, and without the means of judging of the authenticity of the documents which he was obliged to assume as the elements of his reasonings; and as to the other, though he ended, we believe, with being a very able and skilful mineralogist, we think it is now generally admitted that that science does not yet afford sufficient materials for any positive conclusion; and that all attempts to establish a theory of the earth must, for many years to come, be regarded as premature. Though it is impossible, therefore, to think too highly of the ingenuity, the vigour, and the eloquence of those publications, we are of opinion that a juster estimate of Mr. Playfair's talent, and a truer picture of his genius and understanding, is to be found in his other writings:—in the papers, both biographical and scientific, with which he has enriched the Transactions of our Royal Society; his account of De Laplace, and other articles which he is understood to have contributed to the Edinburgh

Review—the outlines of his Lectures on Natural Philosophy—and above all, his Introductory Discourse to the supplement to the Encyclopedia Britannica, with the final correction of which he was occupied up to the last moments that the progress of his disease allowed him to dedicate to any intellectual exertion.

With reference to these works, we do not think we are influenced by any national, or other partiality, when we say that he was certainly one of the best writers of his age; and even that we do not now recollect any one of his contemporaries who was so great a master of composition. There is a certain mellowness and richness about his style, which adorns, without disguising the weight and nervousness, which is its other great characteristic—a sedate gracefulness and manly simplicity in the more level passages—and a mild majesty and considerate enthusiasm where he rises above them, of which we scarcely know where to find any other example. There is great equability, too, and sustained force in every part of his writings. He never exhausts himself in flashes and epigrams, nor languishes into tameness or insipidity; at first sight, you would say that plainness and good sense were the predominating qualities; but, by and by, this simplicity is enriched with the delicate and vivid colours of a fine imagination—the free and forcible touches of a most powerful intellect—and the lights and shades of an unerring and harmonizing taste. In comparing it with the styles of his most celebrated contemporaries, we would say, that it was more purely and peculiarly a written style—and, therefore, rejected those ornaments that more properly belong to oratory. It had no impetuosity, hurry, or vehemence—no bursts or sudden turns, or abruptions, like that of Burke; and though eminently smooth and melodious, it was not modulated to a uniform system of solemn declamation like that of Johnson; nor spread out in the richer and more voluminous elocution of Stewart; nor still less broken into that patch-work of scholastic pedantry and conversational smartness which has found its admirers in Gibbon. It is a style, in short, of great freedom, force and beauty; but the deliberate style of a man of thought and of learning, and neither that of a wit throwing out his extempores with an affectation of careless grace—nor of a rhetorician thinking more of his manner than his matter, and determined to be admired for his expression, whatever may be the fate of his sentiments.

His habits of composition, as we have understood, were not perhaps exactly what might have been expected from their results. He wrote rather slowly—and his first sketches were often very slight and imperfect—like the rude chalking for a masterly picture. His chief effort and greatest pleasure was in their revisal and correction; and there were no limits to the improvement which resulted from this application. It was not the style merely, or indeed chiefly, that gained by it

The whole reasoning, and sentiment, and illustration, was enlarged and new modelled in the course of it, and a naked outline became gradually informed with life, colour, and expression. It was not at all like the common finishing and polishing to which careful authors generally subject the first draughts of their compositions—nor even like the fastidious and tentative alterations with which some more anxious writers assay their choicer passages. It was, in fact, the great filling in of the picture, the working up of the figured *weft* on the naked and meagre *woof* that had been stretched to receive it,—and the singular thing in this case was, not only that he left this most material part of his work to be performed after the whole outline had been finished,—but that he could proceed with it to an indefinite extent, and enrich and improve as long as he thought fit, without any risk either of destroying the proportions of that outline, or injuring the harmony and unity of the design. He was perfectly aware, too, of the possession of this extraordinary power, and it was partly, we presume, in consequence of it, that he was not only at all times ready to go on with any work in which he was engaged without waiting for favourable moments or hours of greater alacrity, but that he never felt any of those doubts and misgivings as to his being able to get creditably through with his undertaking, to which we believe most authors are occasionally liable. As he never wrote upon any subject of which he was not perfectly master, he was secure against all blunders in the substance of what he had to say; and felt quite assured, that if he was only allowed time enough, he should finally come to say it in the very best way of which he was capable. He had no anxiety, therefore, either in undertaking or proceeding with his tasks; and intermitted and resumed them at his convenience, with the comfortable certainty, that all the time he bestowed on them was turned to good account, and that what was left imperfect at one sitting, might be finished with equal ease and advantage at another. Being thus perfectly sure both of his end and his means, he experienced in the course of his compositions none of that little fever of the spirits with which that operation is so apt to be accompanied. He had no capricious visitings of fancy which it was necessary to fix on the spot or to lose forever—no casual inspirations to invoke and to wait for—no transitory and evanescent lights to catch before they faded. All that was in his mind was subject to his control, and amenable to his call, though it might not obey at the moment; and while his taste was so sure, that he was in no danger of overworking any thing that he had designed, all his thoughts and sentiments had that unity and congruity that they fell almost spontaneously into harmony and order; and the last added, incorporated and assimilated with the first, as if they had sprung simultaneously from the same happy conception.

But we need dwell no longer on qualities that may be gathered hereafter from the works he has left behind him. They who lived with him mourn the most for those which will be traced in no such memorial; and prize far above those talents which gained him his high name in philosophy, that personal character which endeared him to his friends, and shed a grace and a dignity over all the society in which he moved. The same admirable taste which is conspicuous in his writings, or rather the higher principles from which that taste was but an emanation, spread a similar charm over his whole life and conversation, and gave the most learned philosopher of his day the manners and deportment of the most perfect gentleman. Nor was this in him the result merely of good sense and good temper, assisted by an early familiarity with good company, and a consequent knowledge of his own place and that of all around him. His good breeding was of a higher descent; and his powers of pleasing rested on something better than mere companionable qualities. With the greatest kindness and generosity of nature, he united the most manly firmness, and the highest principles of honour, and the most cheerful and social dispositions, with the gentlest and steadiest affections. Towards women he had always the most chivalrous feelings of regard and attention, and was, beyond almost all men, acceptable and agreeable in their society,—though without the least levity or pretension unbecoming his age or condition. And such, indeed was the fascination of the perfect simplicity and mildness of his manners, that the same tone and deportment seemed equally appropriate in all societies, and enabled him to delight the young and the gay with the same sort of conversation which instructed the learned and the grave. There never, indeed, was a man of learning and talent who appeared in society so perfectly free from all sorts of pretension or notion of his own importance, or so little solicitous to distinguish himself, or so sincerely willing to give place to every one else. Even upon subjects which he had thoroughly studied, he was never in the least impatient to speak, and spoke at all times without any tone of authority; while, so far from wishing to set off what he had to say by any brilliancy or emphasis of expression, it seemed generally as if he had studied to disguise the weight and originality of his thoughts under the plainest form of speech and the most quiet and indifferent manner; so that the profoundest remarks and subtlest observations were often dropped, not only without any solicitude that their value should be observed, but without any apparent consciousness that they possessed any. Though the most social of human beings, and the most disposed to encourage and sympathise with the gaiety and jollity of others, his own spirits were in general rather cheerful than gay, or at least never rose to any turbulence or tumult of merriment; and while he would listen with

the kindest indulgence to the more extravagant sallies of his younger friends, and prompt them by the heartiest approbation, his own satisfaction might generally be traced in a slow and temperate smile, gradually mantling over his benevolent and intelligent features, and lighting up the countenance of the sage with the expression of the mildest and most genuine philanthropy. It was wonderful, indeed, considering the measure of his own intellect, and the rigid and undeviating propriety of his own conduct, how tolerant he was of the defects and errors of other men. He was too indulgent, in truth, and favourable to his friends,—and made a kind and liberal allowance for the faults of all mankind —except only faults of baseness or of cruelty —against which he never failed to manifest the most open scorn and detestation. Independent, in short, of his high attainments, Mr. Playfair was one of the most amiable and estimable of men—delightful in his manners, inflexible in his principles, and generous in his affections; he had all that could charm in society or attach in private; and while his friends enjoyed the free and unstudied conversation of an easy and intelligent associate, they had at all times the proud and inward assurance that he was a being upon whose perfect honour and generosity they might rely with the most implicit confidence, in life and in death—and of whom it was equally impossible, that under any circumstances, he should ever perform a mean, a selfish, or questionable action, as that his body should cease to gravitate, or his soul to live!

[*Greenock Adver.*

#### *Extracts from Dr. Franklin's Will.*

'I have considered that, among artisans, good apprentices are most likely to make good citizens; and having myself been bred to a manual art, printing, in my native town, and afterwards assisted to set up my business in Philadelphia by kind loans of money from two friends there, which was the foundation of my fortune, and of all the utility in life that may be ascribed to me—I wish to be useful even after my death, if possible, in forming and advancing other young men, that may be serviceable to their country.'

To this end he devoted two thousand pounds sterling; one thousand to Boston, the other to Philadelphia, 'to be let out upon interest at five per cent. per annum, to such young married artificers, under the age of twenty-five years, as have served an apprenticeship in the said town and city, and faithfully fulfilled the duties required in their indentures, so as to obtain a good moral character, from at least two respectable citizens, who are willing to become sureties in a bond, with the applicants, for the repayment of the money so lent, with interest, according to the terms hereinafter prescribed; all which bonds are to be taken for Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in current gold coin; and

the managers shall keep a bound book, or books, wherein shall be entered the names of those who shall apply for, and receive the benefit of this institution, and of their sureties, together with the sums lent, the dates, and other necessary and proper records respecting the business and concerns of this institution: and as these loans are intended to assist young married artificers in setting up their business, they are to be proportioned by the discretion of the managers, so as not to exceed sixty pounds sterling to one person, nor to be less than fifteen pounds.

And if the number of appliers so entitled should be so large as that the sum will not suffice to afford to each as much as might otherwise not be improper, the proportion to each shall be diminished, so as to afford to every one some assistance. These aids may therefore be small at first, but as the capital increases by the accumulated interest, they will be more ample. And in order to serve as many as possible in their turn, as well as to make the repayment of the principal borrowed more easy, each borrower shall be obliged to pay with the yearly interest one-tenth part of the principal: which sums, principal and interest, so paid in, shall be again let out to fresh borrowers.'

The benevolent donor then expresses a hope that no part of the money will be permitted to remain idle, or be diverted to other purposes, and that the sum would thus be continually accumulating.

'If this plan is executed, and succeeds, as projected, without interruption, for one hundred years, the sum will be then one hundred and thirty-one thousand pounds.

Having considered that the covering the ground plat of Philadelphia with buildings and pavements, which carry off most rain, and prevent its soaking into the earth, and renewing and purifying the springs, whence the water of the wells must gradually grow worse, and in time be unfit for use, as I find has happened in all old cities; I recommend, that at the end of the first hundred years, if not done before, the corporation of the city employ a part of the hundred thousand pounds in bringing by pipes the water of the Wissahickon creek into the town so as to supply the inhabitants, which I apprehend may be done without great difficulty, the level of that creek being much above that of the city, and may be made higher by a dam. I also recommend making the Schuylkill completely navigable.

Considering the accidents to which all human affairs and projects are subject in such a length of time, I have perhaps too much flattered myself with a vain fancy, that these dispositions, if carried into execution will be continued without interruption, and have the effects proposed; I hope, however, that, if the inhabitants of the two cities should not think fit to undertake the execution, they will at least accept the offer of these donations, as a mark of my good will, token of my gratitude, and testimony of my desire to be

useful to them even after my departure. I wish, indeed, that they may both undertake to endeavour the execution of my project, because I think, that, though unforeseen difficulties may arise, expedients will be found to remove them, and the scheme be found practicable.'

## PRESENT STATE OF THE LEGACY TO PHILADELPHIA.

*From the accounts of the Corporation.*

Amount to the credit of the legacy on the 31st December, 1818, \$15,224 50, for which the treasurer holds 86 bonds.

1818, Dec. 31.—Amount of capital at interest on the above recited bonds,	
at 5 per cent. per annum	\$12,625 00
Balance in the treasury	549 71
	—
Deduct the original amount of the legacy, 1000 <i>l.</i> sterling, or	13,174 71
	—
Actual increase of the legacy to this date,	4,444 44
	—
	8,730 27

## PUBLIC LANDS.

We have been favoured with the following interesting article, descriptive and explanatory of the admirable system adopted by the government for the national domain, by the scientific and intelligent gentleman who fills the office of commissioner of the public lands—to whose pen our readers and the public are frequently indebted for useful observations on the climate, soil, and products of our country, and on subjects connected with literature and science. [*Nat. Int.*

A citizen of high respectability has communicated to me the following:

"There are some points relative to the public land system, which I believe, are not so clearly and generally understood as they should be. Permit me to ask—

"1st. *What is the Section of a Township?*—Though this is familiar to persons in the land office, I doubt whether it is distinctly understood by many who read newspapers.

"2d. *What is the encouragement for Schools and Colleges in the locations of public lands?*—The answer would, I trust, be honourable to the government of the country, and very interesting to the friends of science.

"3d. *What is the tenure of lands granted by the United States?*—The allodial character of the landholder accords with the free spirit of our political institutions; but perhaps this distinguishing advantage has not attracted the attention of many in the community. It is an advantage which might be more highly estimated, if viewed in contrast with the abuses and oppressions suffered by European tenantry. The land system of the United States is

a novelty of such practical excellence that I wish it to be made known distinctly, and in such a manner as to leave no question of fact."

*Answer to the first question.*

## SECTION.

A township is a square, whose sides (limited by true meridians and parallels to the equator) are each 6 miles in length: its area, therefore, is 36 square miles, or sections, each of which contains 640 acres, and each township contains 23,040 acres. A quarter section is a square whose sides (bounded by meridians and parallels) are each half a mile, and contains 160 acres. The corners of each section and quarter section are distinctly marked by the deputy surveyors of the United States. The sections are numbered from 1 to 36, beginning at the northeast corner of the township, and progressing, from right to left, to the northwest corner, and returning, from left to right, to the east boundary of the township, thus:

NORTH.						
6	5	4	3	2	1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
18	17	16	15	14	13	
19	20	21	22	23	24	EAST.
30	29	28	27	26	25	
31	32	33	34	35	36	SOUTH.

The act of February 22, 1817, authorises the sale, in half quarter sections, (or 80 acres) of the sections 2, 5, 20, 23, 30, 33, of each township. The subdivision of the quarter section is made by true meridians.

The rectangular division of a country is preferable to any other. The cardinal points are known and familiar, even to children. It requires some geometrical skill to ascertain the area of a field whose sides form acute angles with the meridian; but the content of a rectangular field is very easily determined; and, indeed, geometers know that the ultimate result of all calculations of areas is obtained by a reduction to the square or rectangle.

For civil purposes, the rectangular division is pre-eminently useful. The boundaries of counties—of judicial or military districts—of districts for schools—for religious societies—and for every object of a social character, are easily and accurately determinable in a country thus divided. If the county court house, the school house, the meeting house, &c. &c. are to be central, their place is precisely known. A single glance at the map of Ohio, Indiana, &c. in comparison with the maps of

Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, or of any of the older states, with respect to county limits, will prove the superior excellence of the rectangular system. It is like the work of an elegant penman compared with the scrawls of a school-boy.

*Answer to the second question.*

COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, &c.

The section No. 16, in every township, is, by law, reserved for the support of schools; the southeast corner of that section is the centre of each township. More than 60,000,000 acres of lands of the United States have already been surveyed—one 36th part of 60,000,000, is 1,666,666 acres, reserved by law for the support of schools. The section No. 16, will, unquestionably, be reserved in all future surveys and disposals of the public lands.

For colleges and seminaries of a higher grade than schools, 13 whole townships have already been granted by the United States to Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, &c.—13 townships are equal to 299,520 acres. The same legislative liberality will doubtless be extended to all future states and territories. By section 2 of the act of April 18, 1806, relative to Tennessee, 200,000 acres are, in that state, reserved for colleges and academies. The reservations, then, for schools, colleges, &c. are—

	Acres.
Section No. 16,	1,666,666
Thirteen townships,	299,520
Reservation in Tennessee,	200,000
	<hr/> 2,166,186

which, at the minimum price of two dollars an acre, is equal to 4,332,372 dollars. The value of lands in any country is proportioned to the increase of its population and its well directed industry. The area of the whole state of Ohio, (the eldest of the states north of the Ohio,) is about 25,000,000 acres; of this about 14,400,000 acres had been surveyed anterior to the late cessions, which embrace the northwest part of that state. A 36th part of 14,400,000, is 400,000. The free spirit of Ohio, united with signal industry and economy, has already given to section 16, in the surveyed portion of the state a value of at least 4 dollars an acre, or of 1,600,000 dollars. There are instances in which section 16, in Ohio, is worth from 20 to 30 dollars an acre.

The value of this privileged and consecrated section, is every day and every hour increasing, in every new state and territory; it advances, *pari passu*, with their agriculture, manufactures, civilization, and general improvement. ‘It grows with their growth, and strengthens with their strength.’

This liberality is indeed honourable to the legislation of a free people, who know that, to continue free, they must be instructed, informed, and enlightened: it is a magnificent and truly parental liberality, to which no parallel can be found in the history of human society.

[The answer to the third question we have omitted, for we believe that every one knows that there are no feudal tenures in the United States.]

J. MEIGS.

*General Land Office, Nov. 4, 1819.*

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

The New York Corresponding Association for the promotion of Internal Improvements, promises fair to prove a national blessing. This society, of which De Witt Clinton is President, and Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill and Cadwallader D. Colden, Vice Presidents, has already done much to awaken public attention to the cultivation of our internal resources. The ‘considerations on the Great Western Canal’ and the ‘examination into the expediency of establishing a Board of Agriculture,’ were sent forth as the expositions to this noble institution. These productions, or parts of them, have been republished in various parts of the United States, and the first, of them, republished in London, with our canal reports. This instance of transatlantic liberality reflects the highest honour upon the state of New York and the present administration of her government. We sincerely wish that the opposition would recollect the fact.

At the late meeting of the Corresponding Association, three important reports were directed to be drawn up—viz: one upon the practicability, expense, and advantages of a canal between New York and Philadelphia; one on the best method of reclaiming salt meadows; and one on the proximity of the head waters, between the western country, and the Atlantic seaboard.

The first of these reports, which is to be drawn up by colonel Haines, the corresponding secretary, is highly important and interesting. Can we connect New York and Philadelphia by a canal? The answer is in the affirmative—it can easily be done. Mr. Gallatin, in his report on roads and canals, shows its practicability; and by a report made during the late war with England, by order of the New Jersey legislature, it appears to be a work of no very formidable aspect. Eight hundred thousand dollars is a large estimate of its expense. This is nothing when compared to the pecuniary ability of the two great cities, which it will benefit.

The advantages of such a communication would be innumerable. In the first place, it would be an immense saving of capital. The trade between New York and Philadelphia is now principally a coasting trade. The capital invested in the vessels of transportation must be many millions. The money paid to the mariners, who navigate the vessels, and the amount of premiums, on policies of insurance, must amount in the course of the year to an enormous sum. There is no transportation, more cheap and simple than that by means of canals. Hence, in case of a ca-

nal between the two cities above mentioned, the money invested in the vessels, the money paid for insurance, and the amount paid to sailors, would be saved, with a trifling reservation, and turned into some other channel of productive industry.

Another important consideration occurs here. The hazards of coasting voyages between New York and Philadelphia are always considerable, from dangers incident to navigation by sea; and in case of a war, with a powerful maritime power, the trade is almost entirely suspended. An inland communication by means of a canal, would remedy these evils and baffle the blockades of a superior foe. This canal would also shorten the distance between the two cities, in point of commerce. We now pass along the seaboard, and ascend the Delaware, making a tedious and circuitous passage. A connexion between the Delaware and the Raritan would open a direct, safe and sure route.

We do not hesitate to say that before the end of seven years the canal will be finished. It will be the most productive stock in the world, and open one of the most vigorous and important intercourses of an internal nature. It is to be hoped that Philadelphia cherishes a proper spirit on this important improvement. We feel confident that the city of New York, would enter boldly and successfully into the great work. Should this be done, Philadelphia could soon send her manufactures by means of a direct communication to the borders of the great lakes. The noble Hudson and the great Western canal would afford the opportunity. In fact we feel anxious for Mr. Haines' report, which will probably embrace all the important facts and reasons. It should be drawn up with care, patience, and industry, for it will remain as the great and fundamental exposition of the subject, and prove a most valuable document. The memorial of Mr. Clinton, from the city of New York, on the expediency of commencing the Great Western Canal, will remain as the chief and fundamental document on the greatest work of its kind, ever executed. Let the document which we now expect, bear the same sterling and stable features.

[*Albany Register.*

#### MANUFACTURES.

On no subject of national interest is there such unanimity as on the propriety of encouraging domestic manufactures. All feel satisfied, that only from the employment and excitement of the national industry can a remedy for present and approaching distress be expected. A general desire appears to exist among all classes, to aid in the development of our national resources, and to devise plans for the establishment and security of domestic industry. Whatever may have been the state of the public mind, as to the policy of manufactures whilst our canvas whitened

every sea, and our agricultural produce was eagerly bought in every port, there cannot now be a shade of doubt, on the soundness of that economy which puts into productive action the labour which the impediments to commerce, and discouragement of agriculture have made idle. No proposition is more simple, none more easily comprehended than this: 'When there exists an absolute inability to pay for the articles we want, we must either forego their use, or make them for ourselves.' This inability actually exists, and we believe will for some time, yet, continue to increase. We are meeting it with retrenchment, but this mean must soon however be exhausted; there is a point, and our habits have made it near to us, beyond which we cannot, will not, bear privation. Then comes necessarily the time, when we must manufacture what we need, and when our wants must be supplied at a price less than they can be in a foreign market, but between the present hour and such period there must intervene a season of suffering that all are endeavouring to avoid. In this cause the government, in despite of the many severe and unjust accusations made against it, is a sincere and active party. In the supply of its own consumption (with some trivial exceptions which are to be regretted) it is steadily and greatly useful in the encouragement of domestic manufactures. Its disposition to promote them is therefore undoubted, but in relation to the means it stands in the same situation with the manufacturers, without skill to digest or apply them. The truth of this remark will be freely admitted by those who have read attentively the many essays from the pens of manufacturers, and from societies established for the promotion of their interest. Nor should this remark be considered as derogatory to the members of the government. For in order to understand and promote the general interest of the nation, amid clashing of individual and sectional interests, and the uproar of contending opinions, light is absolutely necessary. But not that light only which makes darkness visible, but that which enables us to see our way clearly, and to walk in it without danger. Under the former may be ranked all that evidence, (and it is enough, heaven knows) which has been produced to show the gloom pervading the country, the deterioration of property, and the inanition of domestic industry. In these labours, the Philadelphia Society for the promotion of American Manufactures, has been conspicuous. Its committee has, with much labour, anatomised the mechanical branches within their reach, and exhibited a most lamentable diminution of vitality. It has too truly shown, that almost every species of business is in decay, and requiring the aid of genius, talent and perseverance for its revivification. This society has caused to be stated for the general government, the afflicting, but real state of the country, but has it proposed any specific mode for its relief? Has it, or has any one pointed out to the national councils any mode to cure

those ills, to which the rational mind can assent? We do not recollect to have seen it.

Truths in political economy are not discovered intuitively. If they be, the fortunate being who thus attains them, must be content to hold them for himself; his fellow creatures cannot be all so blessed. If he wish to propagate them, to make proselytes, he must be satisfied to instruct the world by evidence, by ratiocination. It is this evidence, it is the conclusion thus to be attained, that Congress have a right to require, when asked to legislate on any proposition. It is this evidence that has heretofore been wanting, and because the necessity of protection, and more especially the proper mode of protection, has not been demonstrated, that our manufactures have to complain of not having been protected.

On what principles do our manufactures claim the fostering care of the nation? For the *sole* benefit of those immediately concerned in them? certainly not. But because their establishment will promote the general welfare? This is a proposition, however, that is not self-evident. And whilst there are many who doubt the policy of sustaining any manufacture by extraordinary means, there are thousands, who *totis viribus* deny the propriety of supporting *all* by forced measures. And yet, this last has been ever strenuously contended for. In order to entitle any manufacture to extraordinary aid, it should be clearly proven that such aid will not be long required, and that when raised into active life, it will not only have strength to support itself, but will be able to repay the nation for its nursing. Otherwise, it will be like the member of a family, whose constant debility and uselessness, render him a dead weight upon his parents and brethren. If this position be correct, we think that Congress will be justified in demanding from those who apply for protecting duties, satisfactory evidence on the following points. 1st. That the manufacture has capacity to supply immediately (sufficient time for the multiplication of machinery, workmen, &c. being supposed) the consumption of the country. For should it not be adequate to this, a perpetual tax will be levied on the whole community for the benefit of the few, if the article can be imported, without the additional duty. And secondly, that when the supply shall be adequate to the demand, that the article shall be as cheap as when imported. These rules are unquestionably safe, and we are much mistaken, if even by their most rigid application, every manufacture will not be encouraged, that fairly merits it.

Legislative inquiries on political economy have been matured, into an admirable system, by the British house of commons. We have borrowed much of English folly and prejudice, and some of English wisdom; it would be of great benefit to us to copy the English statesmen in this particular. Subjects worthy of parliamentary inquiry, are submitted to special committees, who do not confine them-

selves to vague theories, spun from the brain of visionary speculators, however ingenious they may be, but calling to their aid, the practical men of whose affairs they are to treat, by pertinent testimony they become masters of the subject, and are enabled to make a report, which, exhausting the matter in all its relations, leaves little else for parliament to do, than to give its assent or dissent. A mode so well adapted to the despatch and perfection of business, we sincerely and ardently recommend to Congress. And, we cannot do a greater favour to our manufacturing fellow-citizens, than to advise them to suggest specific remedies for their wants, and to prove, on the principles we have above stated, by detailed evidence before such a committee, their title to protection. They have long in vain asked aid in general terms. Government is at a loss how to grant it. Let the manufacturers enlighten the government on the subject of their wants, and they will soon cease to complain that they need protection. F. Amer. *Centinel.*]

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**Paper from Sea Weed.**—A patent for five years has been granted in Denmark to the inventor of a new mode of making paper, namely, of sea-weed. This paper is said to be whiter and stronger than other paper, and at the same time cheaper.

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**United States Bank.**—In consequence of some ambiguity in the Report of the stockholders of this institution, it has been believed by many that the banks in this city were indebted to it 1,561,658 dollars. Among others, a writer in the National Intelligencer has adopted this opinion, and states, that

‘Numerous state banks have failed, and by the Report, those in Philadelphia are much in debt to the Bank of the United States, and must soon be broken if they aid merchants to pay duties to government.’

The cashiers of all the banks in this city have published a notice of this mistake, from which it appears, that the whole balance due the Bank of the United States is only 14,081 dollars.

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